

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claim will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented): A method of automatically forwarding a response to a message to the sender of the message, comprising:
 - (a) prompting the sender to provide a message;
 - (b) prompting the sender to identify a recipient, the recipient having a plurality of associated contact numbers;
 - (c) prompting a user to rank the associated contact numbers relating to the recipient identified in response to step (b) from highest to lowest;
 - (d) sending the message provided in response to step (a) to the highest ranked associated contact number to which the message has not yet been sent;
 - (e) prompting the recipient of the message to provide a reply to the message;
 - (f) waiting at least a predetermined amount of time;
 - (g) if no response to the message is received, repeating steps (d) through (g) with respect to the next highest ranked associated contact number until a response is received or the message has been sent to all associated contact numbers; and
 - (h) forwarding the response to the sender.
- 2.-4 (canceled)
5. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the channel of communication utilized by the recipient for sending the response is different from the channel of communication utilized by the sender for sending the message.

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6-7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the channel of communication utilized by the sender for sending the message is by automated telephone call.

9-34 (canceled)

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(i) converting a verbal message provided by the sender in response to step (a) into textual form.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the message is sent to at least one recipient by e-mail.

37. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(i) converting a verbal response provided by the recipient in response to step (e) into textual form.

38-42. (canceled)

43. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the message provided by the sender in response to step (a) comprises a plurality of questions; and wherein the recipient is prompted in step (e) to provide an answer to each question in the sender's message.

44-68 (canceled)

69. (New) A method for performing a task via a computer network comprising:

receiving a request to perform a task from a task assigner via at least one first communication medium;

converting the request from the at least one first communication medium to digital text;

using the text to determine the task;

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requesting additional information if required to complete the task;
performing the task via a host and data in a computer network; and
responding to a recipient with information from the completed task via at least one second communication medium.

70. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the request includes contact information for network hosts, databases, and recipients.

71. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the first and second communication mediums are different.

72. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the first and second communication mediums are the same.

73. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the first communication medium is a speech communication via a public service telephone system or an IP network.

74. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the second communication medium is a speech communication via a public service telephone system or an IP network.

75. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the first communication medium is via a landline phone, a mobile phone, email, a fax, a pager, or a database.

76. (New) The method according to claim 70 wherein the contact information is used to determine the task and wherein the contact information is obtained from at least one of the network hosts, databases, and recipients.

77. (New) The method according to claim 73 wherein the conversion step includes translating speech to text.

78. (New) The method according to claim 69 further comprising the step of converting the information from the completed task into the second communication medium.

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79. (New) The method according to claim 78 wherein the conversion of information from the completed task includes translating text to speech.
80. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the second communication medium is via a landline phone, a mobile phone, email, a fax, a pager, or a database.
81. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the task assigner and the recipient includes a plurality of concurrent task assigners and recipients.
82. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the task assigner is the recipient.
83. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the step for determining the task includes querying a database.
84. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the task can be changed during the execution of the task.
85. (New) The method according to claim 69 wherein the step for determining the task includes querying a remote host.
86. (New) A system for performing a task via a computer network comprising:
- means for receiving a request to perform a task from a task assigner via at least one first communication medium;
 - means for converting the request from the at least one first communication medium to digital text;
 - means for using the text to determine the task;
 - means for requesting additional information if required to complete the task;
 - means for performing the task via a host and data in a computer network; and
 - means for responding to a recipient with information from the completed task via at least one second communication medium.

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87. (New) The system according to claim 86 wherein the request includes contact information for network hosts, databases and recipients.

88. (New) The system according to claim 86 wherein the first and second communication mediums are different.

89. (New) The system according to claim 86 wherein the first and second communication mediums are the same.

90. (New) The system according to claim 86 wherein the first communication medium is a speech communication a public service telephone system or an IP network.

91. (New) The system according to claim 86 wherein the second communication medium is a speech communication a public service telephone system or an IP network.

92. (New) The system according to claim 86 wherein the first communication medium is via a landline phone, a mobile phone, email, a fax, a pager, or a database.

93. (New) The system according to claim 87 wherein the contact information is used to determine the task and wherein the contact information is obtained from at least one of the network hosts, databases, and recipients.

94. (New) The system according to claim 90 wherein the means for conversion includes translating speech to text.

95. (New) The system according to claim 86 further comprising a means for converting the information from the completed task into the second communication medium.

96. (New) The system according to claim 95 wherein the second means for conversion includes translating text to speech.

97. (New) The system according to claim 90 wherein the second communication medium is via a landline phone, a mobile phone, email, a fax, a pager, or a database.

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98. (New) The system according to claim 90 wherein the task assigner and the recipient includes a plurality of concurrent users and recipients.
99. (New) The system according to claim 90 wherein the task assigner is the recipient.
100. (New) The system according to claim 90 wherein the means for determining the task includes a database or remote hosts which is queried for data.
101. (New) The method according to claim 90 wherein the task can be changed during the execution of the task.